

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 163 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2
 - (c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to and which is at least 70% identical to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and
 - (d) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).
2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.
3. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
4. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes the polypeptide comprising amino acid -21 to amino acid 163 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
5. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes the polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 163 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
6. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide which encodes a mature polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75874;
 - (b) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide expressed by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75874;

therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 11.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said polypeptide and expressing said polypeptide *in vivo*.

16. A method for the treatment of a patient having need of VIGF comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 12.

17. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit VIGF comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the antagonist of Claim 13.

18. A process for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to expression of the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

determining a mutation in the nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide.

19. A diagnostic process comprising:
analyzing for the presence of the polypeptide of claim 11 in a sample derived from a host.

20. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and activate or inhibit a receptor for the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

contacting a cell expressing on the surface thereof a receptor for the polypeptide, said receptor being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound

to said receptor, with a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to the receptor; and determining whether the compound binds to and activates or inhibits the receptor by detecting the presence or absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the compound with the receptor.

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